Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

5/22/81 #3275-2 U

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 21, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 16 totaled an estimated 16.3 billion ton-miles, 7.3 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The sharp decline was primarily attributable to the impact of the United Mine Workers' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 20 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 348.2 billion ton-miles, 1.9 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 16 totaled 388,590 cars, 11.9 percent below 1980, but 1.5 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 22.8 percent in the East, 9.2 percent in the South, and 5.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 13 of the 21 commodity groups were down. Coal loadings were off 53,726 cars, or 46.2 percent. Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended May 9 totaled 33,682 cars, up 5.9 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 60,328 trailers and/or containers, up 4.1 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 19 weeks of the year was 607,025 cars, 4.0 percent lower than last year, and 1,105,367 trailers and/or containers, down 3.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/16/81:

	Loadings in Week ended May 16, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,081	D	3,882	15.6	D	235	1.1
Other farm products	4,818	D	143	2.9	I	622	14.8
Metallic ores	35,668	D	246	0.7	I	4,083	12.9
Coal	62,534	D	53,726	46.2	I	1,441	2.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,131	D	1,116	7.3	D	365	2.5
Nonmetallic minerals	14,440	I	1,449	11.2	D	19	0.1
Grain mill products	14,343	D	2,029	12.4	D	179	1.2
Food and kindred products	16,292	D	1,726	9.6	I	408	2.7
Primary forest products	20,006	I	201	1.0	I	725	3.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,402	D	72	0.8	D	367	4.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,617	D	1,304	6.2	D	204	1.0
Chemicals and allied products	28,186	I	2,823	11.1	I	32	0.1
Petroleum products	5,364	D	213	3.8	I	49	0.9
Stone, clay and glass products	14,849	D	622	4.0	I	90	0.6
Coke	6,973	I	1,309	23.1	D	336	4.6
Metals and products	16,836	I	416	2.5	D	141	0.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,722	I	6,016	40.9	I	1,165	6.0
Waste and scrap materials	13,694	I	1,303	10.5	I	237	1.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,817	D	442	4.3	D	779	7.4
All other carloads	40,582	D	412	1.0	D	730	1.8
LCL traffic	235	I	61	35.1	I	42	21.8
Total Cars Loaded	388,590	D	52,355	11.9	I	5,539	1.5
Corresponding week of 1980	443,749						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (20 weeks)	8,318,155	8,851,690	D	6.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
19 Weeks cumulative	332.0	337.3	D	1.6
Week ended May 16	16.3	17.6	D	7.3
20 Weeks cumulative	348.2	354.8	D	1.9

AARt-052181